Agriculture Technical Focus Group

June 18th, 2002

Preliminary List of Questions

This list will help generate the issues, prompt the data, and direct the discussion of the TFG.

BACKGROUND DATA

?? What are the types & locations of agricultural operations in the Watershed?

?? What is their proximity to streams and wetlands?

?? What is their proximity to wildlife populations?

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PERTAINING TO ISSUES

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A. Use Viability

?? What challenges are there to agricultural viability in the watershed?

?? What do growers need to improve the sustainability of their operations while protecting watershed health?

?? How do wildlife populations (e.g., deer, geese) impact agricultural operations?

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B. Water Quality

?? What is the relationship between agricultural practices and water quality within the watershed? E.g., how is water quality impacted by:

   ?? pesticide/ fertilizer use on farms?

   ?? animal waste on farms?

   ?? soil erosion on farms?

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C. Water Supply

?? What impact does current and future agricultural use have on water supply in the watershed?

?? Is current water supply adequate for the needs of agriculture in the watershed? Will it be sufficient for future agricultural needs?

?? What agricultural practices are most water-consumptive? Can these be modified to use less water?

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D. Ecosystem Health

?? What impact does agriculture in the watershed have on wildlife and habitat?

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E. Cumulative Impacts

?? Given implementation of BMPs, what are future cumulative impacts?

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IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

?? What BMPs can be implemented to reduce agricultural water consumption?

?? How can we better equip farmers with the information they need to enhance their operations using environmentally responsible practices?

?? Are there agricultural BMPs available to help mitigate any impacts on water quality?

?? How can farming practices be altered to enhance agricultural viability within the Watershed?

?? How can we educate/inform the public about these issues?

WHAT OTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED BY THIS TFG?